

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 AID-05 PC-01 /063 W  
-----022468 020458Z /12

R 011230Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7680  
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
AMEMBASSY DACCA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
AMCONSUL BOMBAY  
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMCONSUL MADRAS  
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINT, IN  
SUBJECT: UPCOMING STATE ASSEMBLY BY-ELECTIONS: A BAROMETER  
OF JANATA'S STANDING?

1. THIS MESSAGE COMPRISES THE SUMMARY OF AN AIRGRAM  
(A-226) WHICH THE EMBASSY IS POUCHING TO THE DEPARTMENT  
DEC. 1 ON BY-ELECTIONS TO SEVERAL STATE ASSEMBLIES AND  
THE LOK SABHA:

2. A SERIES OF BY-ELECTIONS TO STATE ASSEMBLIES AND  
THE LOK SABHA ARE TAKING PLACE AROUND THE COUNTRY THIS  
WEEK AND LATER IN DECEMBER. THE THREE MOST CRUCIAL AS-  
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SEMBLY CONTESTS INVOLVE THE JANATA CHIEF MINISTERS  
OF RAJASTHAN, BIHAR AND UTTAR PRADESH,  
WHO ARE NOT NOW MEMBERS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE STATE  
ASSEMBLIES. IN RAJASTHAN, CHIEF MINISTER BHAIRON  
SINGH SHEKAHAWAT EASILY DEFEATED HIS CONGRESS OPPONENT  
BY A LARGE MAJORITY ON NOVEMBER 27, A VICTORY WHICH  
MAY HELP TO SILENCE HIS CRITICS IN HIS OWN PARTY. THE

CHIEF MINISTERS OF BIHAR AND UP MUST STILL FACE THE ELECTORATE.

ALTHOUGH BOTH NOW APPEAR TO HAVE AN EDGE, THEY MUST  
CAMPAIGN UNDER THE BURDEN OF RISING PRICES, LAW AND ORDER  
PROBLEMS AND THE LISTLESS PERFORMANCE OF THEIR MINISTRIES.  
IN ADDITION, DISGRUNTLED ELEMENTS WITHIN THEIR OWN  
PARTIES COULD WORK AGAINST THEIR CAMPAIGNS.

3. THE INDIVIDUAL OUTCOMES AND CUMULATIVE RESULT OF THESE  
BY-ELECTIONS ARE BEING WATCHED AS A BAROMETER OF POPULAR  
ATTITUDES TOWARD MORARJI  
DESAI'S GOVERNMENT AT THE CENTER AND THE JANATA  
GOVERNMENTS IN THE STATES. SUCH EVALUATIONS SHOULD  
BE TEMPERED BY THE FACT THAT LOCAL ISSUES AND THE  
CASTE BACKGROUND OF INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATES ARE TRAD-  
ITIONALLY VITAL FACTORS IN STATE ASSEMBLY CONTESTS.  
NONETHELESS, A POOR SHOWING BY JANATA CANDIDATES IN  
THESE BY-ELECTIONS WOULD REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT  
LOSS OF PRESTIGE FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND THE RULING PARTY.  
IT COULD ALSO IMPACT UPON THE BALANCE OF POWER AMONG  
THE NATIONAL JANATA LEADERSHIP. IN PARTICULAR, THE  
FAILURE OF THE UP CHIEF MINISTER, RAM NARESH YADAV,  
TO WIN HIS SEAT WOULD ENTAIL A CONSIDERABLE LOSS OF  
FACE FOR HIS POWERFUL PATRON AT THE CENTER,  
GOI HOME MINISTER CHARAN SINGH. IN ANY EVENT,  
A LOSS BY THE CHIEF MINISTER IN EITHER BIHAR OR  
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UP -- THOUGH NOW APPEARING UNLIKELY, WOULD  
SET OFF A BITTER FACTIONAL STRUGGLE WITHIN THE  
STATE JANATA UNITS TO SELECT A NEW LEADER,  
HARDLY A WELCOME PROSPECT FOR THE TROUBLED  
MINISTRIES IN THOSE STATES.  
GOHEEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 01-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977NEWDE17054  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770446-0968  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** NEW DELHI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t197712105/aaaadlbg.tel  
**Line Count:** 100  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 70f4cefb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 112951  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** UPCOMING STATE ASSEMBLY BY-ELECTIONS: A BAROMETER OF JANATA'S STANDING?  
**TAGS:** PINT, IN, STATE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/70f4cefb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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